

BUREAU OF BUILDINGS

Kenneth A. Gibson, principal structural engineer for Newark and standard bearer of the Kenneth A. Gibson Civic Association said "I am happy to see the things I have been saying for years substantiated by Governor Hughes' blue-ribbon, riot commission." In comment on the 478-page report, he said stated that despite his apprehension about a single Newark resident on the panel, "the report had an objectivity I didn't believe would be forthcoming and I am gratified to have been proven wrong."

Gibson said that the magnitude of the recommendations called for another panel of equal stature to insure implementation. He said that "we cannot afford the kind of inaction that accompanied the four grand jury presentments made over the past seven years against the Newark Police Department. I believe the police/community situation is as bad in Newark now as it has ever been and unless the increasing polarization between black and white is arrested, I am extremely pessimistic about ~~the police situation~~ <sup>current tensions</sup>."

Gibson also remarked, "what we need now is a New Jersey "Little Hoover Commission" charged with the responsibility of carrying out the many recommendations of the Hughes panel. He said that the new body should also be appointed by the Governor and granted subpoena powers that would parallel and work in conjunction with the special grand jury investigative unit called for by the Lilley panel.

In further comments on the report, Gibson said:

- \* The documentation of Newark's ills by CBS-TV and now the riot commission, insure more than ever the wrongness of Mayor Atonizio and the Newark City Council's abrupt action in lowering standards for six, policy-making positions in the city administration. "If anything, Gibson added, we need a talent search to find the best qualified persons available to deal with Newark's crisis situation."